

# Memphis....SouthernRemix

April 2012

## Amiable

Annexation and consolidation have become dirty words to Memphians and Shelby Countians alike. Everything from schools to neighborhoods are bantered around like chess pieces pairing one group against another. All has been incredibly disruptive to what we all want, which is **progress**.

Growth, in this case, is defined by an increase in population, an increase in tax revenue, and increase in the number new businesses, an increase in public projects, and an increase in tourism. Growth is a sign of progress. While we attempt to define the literal border to where Memphis stops and Shelby County begins, North Mississippi has grown as has Nashville and Chattanooga. Their focus has been on their future. Our focus has been on protecting what is ours. The sooner we realize that the county and the city are one in the same, the sooner we can expect to see progress.

Public projects are imperative to any city, Memphis included. Other cities have figured out that it is not the local government's responsibility to plan, create, promote, and fund these projects. It is our duty, as citizens, to be an integral part of our city and not simply occupy it. So, please take some time to really think about how you live in ~~Memphis~~ Shelby County. Consider projects and activities that you have and have not experienced in other cities and if they would work here. Consider existing projects and activities and how we might be able to improve them in the future. It is not often our leaders come to us to ask our opinions. Well, let's not wait for them to ask in order to be heard. Send those ideas to the email address below. Let us begin a dialogue on how we can position our city for growth and prosperity - **now is the time!**

send responses to [letters@csimemphis.org](mailto:letters@csimemphis.org).

be sure to note if you prefer them to be confidential, otherwise responses will be highlighted in our LETTERS section.